



STATE OF WASHINGTON

Capitol Lake: Accomplishments in 2004

The Capitol Lake Adaptive Management (CLAMP) Steering Committee, a group of state, tribal and local government officials, completed a 10-year management plan for Capitol Lake in 2002. The plan identifies 14 management objectives for improving water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and public recreational opportunities, while also managing flood control, sediment deposits and adjacent infrastructure.

The CLAMP committee advises the Department of General Administration on lake management issues. General Administration (GA) is the state agency responsible for day-to-day management of the 260-acre man-made lake.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Marathon Park was rebuilt and reopened following major damage caused by the 2001 "Nisqually" Earthquake.

The Interpretive Center trail, also badly damaged by the earthquake, was rebuilt and reopened.

The Interpretive Center Wetland Mitigation Area was replanted with 8,000 native plants. Most of the work was done by volunteers as part of a community planting event.

An infestation of Eurasian Milfoil was mostly eradicated within the lake. Two applications of the aquatic herbicide triclopyr in July killed 90 percent of the milfoil. The remaining plants were hand-pulled. Monitoring for a re-occurrence or re-infestation will continue through summer 2007.

GA contracted with Thurston County Environmental Health Division to monitor the lake following the herbicide application. The final monitoring report showed the herbicide killed most of the milfoil; did not harm native vegetation; did not adversely impact water quality in the lake or Puget Sound; and dissipated quickly after both treatments.

The first phase of the Capitol Lake Estuary Feasibility Study was begun. A total of \$346,500 of cash and in-kind services has been raised toward the estimated \$900,000 needed to complete the estuary study.

Perry Lund, of the Department of Ecology, was hired as the study project manager.

A \$222,000 Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant was applied for to help pay for the estuary study and was awarded in December 2004. The funds should be available next month. The money will be used for gathering biological data.

The U.S. Geological Survey and Department of Ecology undertook the first bathymetry study of the lake since 1995. This is a study of the bottom topography of the lake, showing water depth and where sediment is deposited.

The Heritage Park Hillside Trail (north of the Temple of Justice) was reopened following washouts and gullies caused by heavy rains. The trail was rebuilt as part of a hillside stabilization project.

The next phase (Phase #5) of Heritage Park development is in the planning stages. This phase will include: surveying and grading; soil preparation; installation of an irrigation system; installation of a drainage system; installation of utility conduits; and the establishment of turf.

Completed improvements to the Capitol Lake Dam fish ladder, so fish have year-round passage into and out of the lake.

Initiated a Capitol Lake stormwater strategy for 2005. The goal is to reduce the pollution entering the lake from over 80 stormwater outfalls. The cities of Olympia and Tumwater, and GA have identified multiple projects for completion by 2006 to reduce the amount of stormwater entering the lake.

The City of Olympia completed the \$40 million Gateway Corridor Project, which included construction of a new 4th Avenue Bridge.

An interpretive display depicting the 1984 running of the U.S. Women's Olympic Marathon Trial was placed in Marathon Park.

The number of Canada geese around the lake were monitored and controlled.

The Department of Ecology continued a water quality study of the Deschutes River and Capitol Lake that began in 2003. The purpose of the study is to identify the primary sources of pollution within the watershed and to recommend corrective actions.

GA contracted with Thurston County for the fourth straight year to monitor the water quality in Capitol Lake. The lake is tested for pH levels, levels of dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform, nitrogen, phosphorous and other contaminants.

The LOTT (*Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, and Thurston County*) Wastewater Alliance delivered a reclaimed water line to Capitol Campus Powerhouse. The line will be used at a future date to irrigate the Capitol Campus grounds. GA and the City of Olympia are reviewing policies and procedures for the use of this water.

Informational signs about salmon ecology were installed on the footbridge that connects Heritage Park and Marathon Park.

Purple Loosestrife, an invasive weed, continued to be managed around the lake.

For more information contact: Jim Erskine, General Administration public information officer, at 360-902-7206 or by email at jerskin@ga.wa.gov.